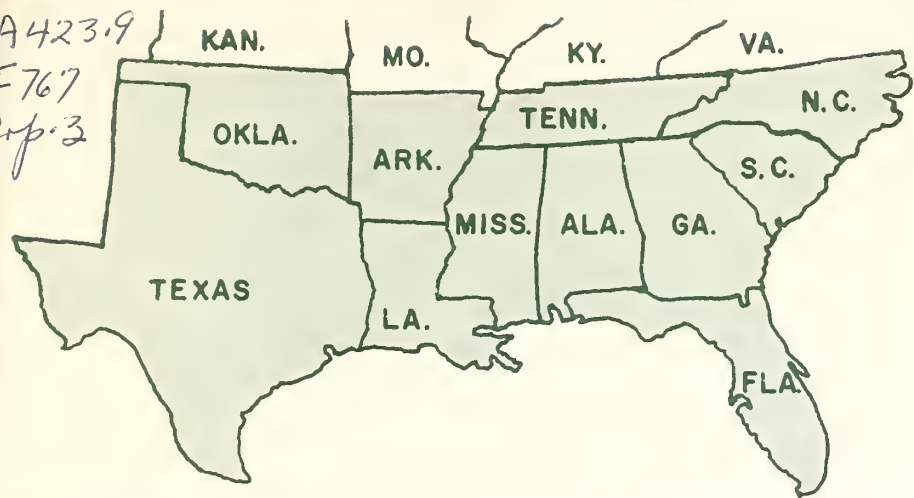


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SOUTHERN FOREST PEST REPORTER

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE, 50 SEVENTH ST. N. E.
Atlanta 23, Georgia

PEST CONTROL ZONE OFFICES
Asheville, N. C.
Valdosta, Ga. — Alexandria, La.

NUMBER 1

March 12, 1963

CONDITIONS IN BRIEF

The southern pine beetle continues to be the major insect problem facing control organizations in the South. Beetle activity generally declined during the winter and scattered brood mortality due to the severe cold weather was reported from Alabama and Georgia. Control efforts continued throughout the winter in most epidemic areas in an attempt to treat all known infestations before spring. Black turpentine beetle activity continues at an endemic level, except for scattered local increases following logging and in the naval stores areas of Georgia and Florida. Ips beetle populations have generally declined with increased rainfall and cooler weather. An outbreak of the black-headed sawfly was reported from Florida and the loblolly pine sawfly was identified in Mississippi for the first time.

The following is a brief report of current forest insect and disease conditions in the South. Insect activity was at a low level during the winter. A number of surveys were made in an attempt to predict the trend of present infestations.



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INVENT SERIAL RECORDS

STATUS OF FOREST INSECTS

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE, Dendroctonus frontalis, Zimm.

ALABAMA

Southern pine beetle populations increased in Alabama during the late summer and fall of 1962. Examination of infested trees on the Shoal Creek and Talladega Ranger Districts of the Talladega National Forest in December and February indicates some beetle mortality due to cold weather. The impact of this mortality on the present epidemic will not be known until later in the year.

GEORGIA

The southern pine beetle outbreaks on the Chattooga and Tallulah Districts of the Chattahoochee National Forest are continuing. The severe cold this winter has not had any significant effect on brood survival. Mortality was found to be spotty and scattered, ranging from 0 to 80 percent in individual trees.

An estimated 2,740 southern pine beetle infested trees were found on the Uncle Remus District of the Oconee National Forest during a survey in January. In addition, there are an estimated 1,254 infested trees on private land within the District boundary.

Since March of last year the Georgia Forestry Commission has cut and treated nearly 500,000 southern pine beetle infested trees in 29 counties. These trees contained 4,000,000 board feet of sawtimber and 7,500 cords of pulpwood. The most severe infestation is centered in Hall, Rabun and Habersham Counties in the northeast and Harris, Heard, Troup, Upson and Talbot Counties in the southwest.

NORTH CAROLINA

The southern pine beetle killed an estimated 200,000 trees in the North Carolina Piedmont in 1962. In addition, several thousand trees were killed in the western part of the state.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Southern pine beetle activity is continuing on the General Pickens Ranger District of the South Carolina National Forests. An estimated 400,000 trees were killed by the southern pine beetle in the Piedmont area of South Carolina during the latter half of 1962.

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE (Cont'd)

TEXAS

There are approximately 2,100 active southern pine beetle brood trees present over the area bounded by U. S. Highway 190, U. S. Highway 90, the Neches River and the Trinity River. On a previous flight there was no indication of any infestations between this area and the boundary of last year's epidemic area.

Examination of infested trees during the winter indicates that beetle broods are vigorous and that the potential exists for continued activity this year.

BLACK TURPENTINE BEETLE, Dendroctonus terebrans (Oliver)

GEORGIA FLORIDA

Black turpentine beetle infestations are causing significant losses of residual timber following logging on the Redlands District of the Oconee National Forest in Georgia.

Increased beetle activity in drought weakened trees in the naval stores areas of south Georgia and north Florida has forced some operators to curtail their naval stores activity.

ALABAMA LOUISIANA MISSISSIPPI TEXAS

Black turpentine beetle populations continue at an endemic level following logging. Localized increases in activity were reported from Alabama and Texas.

IPS ENGRAVER BEETLES

FLORIDA

Ips activity increased as a result of drought damaged timber in association with naval stores activities. Considerable salvage has been done by private landowners.

LOUISIANA TEXAS

Ips populations have declined with increased rainfall and cooler weather, after becoming very aggressive in late summer.

PINE SAWFLIES, Neodiprion spp.

FLORIDA

A recent infestation of the black-headed sawfly, Neodiprion excitans, was reported on 4,000 acres of mature loblolly pine in Marion County.

The red-headed pine sawfly, Neodiprion lecontei (Fitch), was reported defoliating a 120 acre longleaf pine plantation near Milton, Santa Rosa County.

Observations indicate that both of these sawflies continue to feed throughout the winter months in Florida.

MISSISSIPPI

The sawfly reported as defoliating loblolly pine in Winston County last March has been identified as the loblolly pine sawfly, Neodiprion taedae linearis Ross. This is the first known report of this species in Mississippi.

BALSAM WOOLLY APHID, Chermes piceae (Ratz)

NORTH
CAROLINA

The balsam woolly aphid is estimated to have killed about 10 percent of the Fraser fir in Mt. Mitchell State Park and adjacent areas. Plans have been made to survey the spruce-fir type in the southern Appalachians during 1963 to determine the area infested.

ELM SPANWORM, Ennomos subsignarius (Hbn.)

GEORGIA

Based on surveys this winter, it appears that control will be necessary this year on about 2,100 acres on the National Forest and State Parks. The infestation has spread steadily north and east, and is presently centered in Rabun and Habersham Counties. Indications are that the infestation in north Georgia is beginning to break up. The egg masses are generally smaller and the intensity of the defoliation has lessened.

NORTH &
SOUTH
CAROLINA

Egg mass surveys indicate the continuation of the north and east extensions of the present infestation and the continued reduction of populations in the older infested areas. Moderate

ELM SPANWORM (Cont'd)

to heavy defoliation may occur in western Swain County, North Carolina and along the Macon County line. Considerable heavy defoliation is expected in the mountains of Macon County. Light to heavy defoliation is expected to occur in Oconee County, South Carolina.

STATUS OF FOREST DISEASES

FOMES ANNOSUS ROOT ROT, Fomes annosus (Fr.) Cke.

TEXAS
ALABAMA Fomes annosus has been reported on the Neches Ranger District, Davy Crockett National Forest, Texas and from Fort Rucker, Alabama, where heavy infections were observed in a longleaf pine plantation and in natural loblolly and slash pine stands.

GEORGIA
FLORIDA Mortality resulting from Fomes annosus is occurring in recently cut loblolly, slash and longleaf pine plantations throughout Georgia and as far south as Lakeland, Florida.

FUSIFORM RUST, Cronartium fusiforme (A. & K.) Hedgc. and Hunt

ALABAMA A heavy infection of fusiform rust was observed in loblolly, slash and longleaf pine stands at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

CONE RUST, Cronartium strobilinum (Arth.) Hedgc. and Hahn

GEORGIA
FLORIDA Within the slash and longleaf producing areas of Georgia and Florida, cone rust has resulted in the loss of from 25 to 90 percent of the total seed crop. With the increase in the number of seed production areas and seed orchards, this is a problem of increasing concern.

DUTCH ELM DISEASE, Ceratocystis ulmi (Buism.) C. Moreau

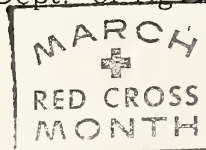
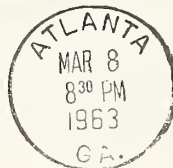
ARKANSAS
OKLAHOMA The present known distribution of Dutch elm disease in Arkansas and Oklahoma is as follows: Arkansas - Carroll,

DUTCH ELM DISEASE (Cont'd)

Clay, Craighead, Greene, Lawrence, Madison, Mississippi, Poinsett, Randolph and Washington Counties; Oklahoma-Craig, Oklahoma, Ottawa, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Tulsa and Washington Counties.

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